



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

**CG visits elementary school***Maj. Gen. Carter Ham talks to kids about education*

Page 11

Fort Riley Post

Army names athletes of year*Runner and softball player named top athletes*

Page 15



Thursday, February 8, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Vol. 50, No. 6

Post, Army news briefly**NIA to host speaker**

Dr. James Willbanks from the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth will speak to members of the National Infantry Association at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Riley's Conference Center. He will speak to the Soldiers regarding changing tactics in Iraq.

Discover Riley's treasures

Newcomers to Fort Riley, and those who wish to learn more about the post are invited to attend a post orientation offered by Army Community Service's relocation staff. Participants will learn fun facts, interesting information and what the Fort Riley area has to offer. Orientations will be held the first Friday of every month. Contact ACS - Relocation at (785) 239-9435 or site2665@riley.army.mil to reserve a seat.

CAC meetings scheduled

The Community Action Council will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 27 at Riley's Conference Center. The March meeting will be held at 10 a.m. March 21. A CAC will not be held in April.

Tax Center offers services

The Fort Riley Tax Center will once again offer free income tax preparation to Soldiers, their family members, and retirees.

The Tax Center will help prepare and e-file federal tax returns and will also assist in preparing state returns. Persons wishing to file should bring proof of identification including social security cards for all family members along with any tax forms and a copy of last year's return.

The Fort Riley Tax Center is located in building 7434B, directly across from the bowling alley on Custer Hill. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Call 239-1040 for more information or an appointment.

Stay 'In Step' with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV, Channel 13.

Stories planned for this week's show, which runs on WIBW TV Feb. 10 and on the post's cable channel 2 Feb. 12-18, are:

- Iraqi Army chief of staff visit
- Story one of two on Afghan TT training
- Press conference with garrison commander speaks about construction funding
- Story on Iraqi fire-fight
- 4th IBCT Monga Di training

Garrison commander addresses construction

By April Blackmon
Community Relations Officer

Fort Riley's garrison commander addressed recent reports about potential reduced construction funding for Fort Riley Feb. 2.

"To this point, no decision has been made; nothing has been finalized yet," said Col. Thomas Smith. The measure, passed by the House, now heads to the Senate.

"No matter what happens, we're going to take care of our Soldiers and their families," Smith said.

Smith also wanted to make clarifications to information released about Fort Riley in media reports.

"This (proposal) doesn't affect military housing," Smith said.

Also, the projects potentially affected were not "carmarked," or specially sponsored projects. Many are facilities associated

Photos:

See page 7 for photos of construction under way at the new division headquarters on Main Post.

with the Base Realignment and Closure and return of the 1st Infantry Division, he said. There

are two types of projects affected - Base Realignment and Closure special appropriations totaling \$306 million, and traditional Military construction projects totaling \$37.2 million.

BRAC special appropriations include:

- Battle Command Training, \$27 million
- Health clinic, \$17.5 million
- Division and Sustainment

Brigade headquarters, \$87 million

This would just affect the Sustainment Brigade headquarters portion, Smith said. The division headquarters is already a "done deal" and construction is actually ahead of schedule, he said. The headquarters is scheduled to be completed by next November.

- Combat Aviation Brigade complex, \$152 million
- Runway improvements, \$17 million

See Construction, Page 7

Looking out

TT Soldiers train with border pros

By Master Sgt. Jack Lee
1st Bde. PAO

Soldiers across border transition teams at Fort Riley recently got a lesson laced with real-world experience.

The experience came in the form of teachers from the Bureau of U.S. Customs and Border Protection who traveled to Fort Riley to train the Soldiers.

"The trainers for the Fort Riley BTT team classes were hand selected," said Royce Walters, director for the Bureau of U.S. Customs and Border Protection border enforcement - training division. Walters said he looked for a mixture of experienced border patrol experts and those who actually worked borders in Iraq when selecting trainers for the BTTs.

One of the trainers who made the trip here was Desi DeLeon, field operations supervisor for the National Border Patrol Tactical Unit, El Paso, Texas. "We do training for special response teams," DeLeon said of his job, adding that he spent four months in Jordan training Iraqi border patrol personnel. "That's what we do; train folks in border enforcement tactics."

Tactics taught included tactical tracking, concealment techniques and check point operations. Although training content is mostly standardized, it is continually updated based on evaluations from past classes.

"If the evaluations all say we should have more training on, say, concealment techniques, our next class will have more instruction on concealment techniques," said Jennifer Broeman, program coordinator of logistics for the BTT training.

"Our training is always evolving," she added, echoing the philosophy of transition team training. "We add and subtract to



Amancio Garza, right, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Supervisor, Del Rio Special Response Team, SE Texas, explains the tactical tracking course to Sgt. 1st Class Jason Demo. Class 13 was the first BTT team to receive this specialized training for border enforcement tactics.

See BTTs, Page 8

Former 'Big Red One' CSM retires

1st Inf. Div. Staff Report

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.

The Combined Arms Center bid farewell to a former "Big Red One" command sergeant major Jan. 22 at a change of responsibility and retirement ceremony in the Frontier Conference Center.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cory N. McCarty, who retired with more than 30 years of service, relinquished his duties as CAC command sergeant major to Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Bruner.

Prior to his assignment at the CAC, McCarty served as the 1st Infantry Division's 18th command sergeant major from 2000 to 2005. Most notably, McCarty served as the division's senior noncommissioned officer as Big

Red One forces entered Iraq in February 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Hosting the ceremony was Deputy Commanding General for Combined Arms Center-Training Brig. Gen. Joe E. Ramirez Jr., who welcomed Bruner and praised McCarty.

Ramirez noted McCarty's major accomplishments, which included the transformation of the NCO education system at 18 U.S. Army schools and centers.

"The bottom line is that during his nearly two years here, Command Sgt. Maj. McCarty developed the vision for a myriad of activities and initiatives, oversaw their development and directed their implementation," Ramirez

See McCarty, Page 4



Former 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Cory McCarty retires Jan. 22 at Fort Leavenworth

Army personnel eligible for copy of Microsoft Office

By Margaret McBride
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - All Army Soldiers and civilian personnel are now eligible for a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop applications to use on a home computer.

The only cost is for packaging, shipping and program administration. An Army Knowledge Online account is required.

"In an information-based Army, this tremendous benefit helps our personnel be better trained in applications they use daily in units and offices," said Vernon M. Bettencourt Jr., deputy chief information officer

For more info:

For more information, visit the Army Small Computer Program Web site at <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/software/hup.jsp>.

for G-6.

Applications include Office for Windows and Mac, Visio, Project and OneNote. Soldier and civilian will pay approximately \$20 for what is typically several hundred dollars, Bettencourt said. The benefit stems from the Army Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement.

See NSPS, Page 3

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Post, Army news briefly

\$1000 reward offered by CID

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the armed robbery, by three unknown black males, wearing white shoes, black trousers and black hooded sweatshirts.

One of the suspected individual(s) had a tattoo on his right forearm of a word written in old English lettering, beginning or ending with the letter "M."

The robbery occurred between 6 and 6:40 p.m., Nov. 5, 2006, at the intersection of Jackson and Beauregard Streets on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is urged to call the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931, or the military police at (785) 239-6767.

'Blackhorse' reunion to be held

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment will hold a reunion June 14-17 in Williamsburg, Va.

All former and current Blackhorse Troopers are invited to attend the event hosted by the Border Legion, Blackhorse Association.

The event will be held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Highway, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

For more information, contact Glenn Snodgrass at (703) 250-3064, gjs525@cox.net, or visit the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Web site at www.11thacr.org.

ASAP offers training

The Fort Riley Army Substance Abuse Program conducts monthly classes for Soldiers in the rank of sergeant and above who have been selected by unit commanders to assist them as an ASAP subject matter expert. During the certification process, Soldiers learn how to administer the Unit Biochemi-

cal Testing program, assist commanders in briefing new unit personnel regarding ASAP policies, procedures and services, and how to develop, manage and facilitate the ASAP prevention education program to their Soldiers.

Classes are scheduled Jan. 24-25, Feb. 21-22, March 21-22, April 25-26, May 23-24, and June 13-14.

The Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course has a rigorous two-day curriculum with a required final test to achieve UPL certification.

The course will be taught from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each scheduled day at the Digital Training Facility in Building 7285.

For information on the Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course or how to enroll Soldiers for the class, call Clyde Sallee, Fort Riley UPL training coordinator, at 239-1928 or 239-4151.

Suicide prevention classes offered

The Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program will conduct Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training classes monthly now through March.

Classes are scheduled Jan. 18-19, Feb. 15-16 and March 8-9.

The two-day classes will be taught in the basement classroom at Riley's Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

For more information, call Charles E. Jackson, Fort Riley suicide prevention training coordinator, at the Family and Soldier Support Center, 239-9434 or 239-1012.

Special Forces seeks volunteers

U.S. Army Special Forces is seeking male officer volunteers from Year Group '04.

Officer packets will be accepted until Feb. 15, but early submission is strongly recommended.

For more information, go to <http://www.bragg.army.mil/specialforces/>.

DISCOM to shed 'Big Red One' patch

By Spc. Stephen Baack
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Over the past year in Germany, the Big Red One's Division Support Command (DISCOM) had its hands full preparing and supporting other units within the 1st Infantry Division footprint for transformation, deployment, inactivation and redeployment. Now that the DISCOM Headquarters is at Fort Riley, it's their turn to transform.

The Army's recent push for a modular force is already imposing noticeable changes on the division's logistical core, which, on Feb. 15, is slated to officially turn into Fort Riley's 1st Sustainment Brigade. The unit will have a new patch, crest, guidon, task organization and mission.

Before DISCOM's departure from Germany, its subordinate battalions either shifted themselves under the command and control of separate brigade combat teams, or simply inactivated and sidestepped the return to Riley. The remaining element of DISCOM – the headquarters – was the only part to return.

Since arriving stateside with about 20 percent of its authorized personnel – just fewer than 50 people – the DISCOM headquarters is already building toward the new structure and the modified table of organization and equipment, said Col. Kevin O'Connell, DISCOM commander.

"Previously we had command and control over all the support battalions in the division," O'Connell explained. "With modularity, the support battalions are now under the direct command and control of their brigade combat teams, so we (will be) a modular headquarters that can unplug from Fort Riley and the Big Red One, deploy to a theater, and assume command and control of five to seven combat sustainment support battalions from across the Army."

These combat sustainment support battalions could be from the active force, the reserve component, and multiple companies from different states or all over

the world, according to O'Connell.

With the transformation into that modular role, the mission of DISCOM is also now in flux. While its role in Germany entailed supply, maintenance, transportation and medical support to the 1st Inf. Div., DISCOM has now refocused its efforts on providing materiel management for the division and Fort Riley.

"I'm still the senior logistician on Fort Riley," O'Connell said. "I talk frequently to what will be called the brigade support battalion commanders here on post, even though they don't work for me. I coordinate with them and synchronize with them anyway we can to facilitate and then performing their mission for their brigade combat teams. It's now more a synchronization effort than a command-and-control effort in garrison at Fort Riley."

More specifically, DISCOM helps with the Fort Riley training mission by acquiring equipment for units on post, expediting repair parts for that equipment, turning in excess equipment, overseeing property book management and other functions, in what is now more of a managerial mode than one of execution, O'Connell said.

By all accounts, the transition is expected to result in a larger personnel base and a far more robust headquarters structure.

With new components becoming a part of the brigade, such as legal, finance and signal, the ways in which the new structure and personnel base will support the division – or any other division – is still a challenge as the integration of new Soldiers alters their operation.

"Going through the transformation, we do not have a blue book, a guide or a checklist ... so we're going in this uncharted territory," said DISCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza. "We're just kind of feeling out what our responsibilities are."

According to Cardoza, the senior members of DISCOM will most likely be feeling the effects of conversion more dramatically than the junior enlisted Soldiers. "I don't think it would drastically impact them because they would get the task at hand and complete that task," Cardoza said. "That's what they've learned through all their (Noncommissioned Officer Educational System schools) and (Advanced Individual Training) anyway ... It's a big change in the mindset of how we operate for our senior noncommissioned officers, to include our officers."

"We'll probably find that in the end our mission and our responsibilities to any division, not any particular division per se, will probably have increased more so than the DISCOM previously had," Cardoza added.

"We've got a great nucleus of people that we brought from Germany with us, and we're building around that nucleus that's already been established as the continuity, as we get new people and incorporate them into the team," O'Connell said. "We just need to get the full complement of people, but I feel good about that."

Like many other brigades across the Army, this future Sustainment Brigade is ramping up for a possible deployment. If the brigade does deploy this year, it will be to fulfill its role as a modular theater-distribution logistics core for subordinate units down-

range.

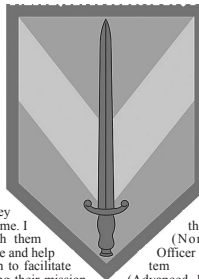
Though DISCOM is not yet set up to deploy from a modularity standpoint, the unit has a rich history of combat with the rest of the 1st Inf. Div. dating back to World War I. In addition, leaders within DISCOM acknowledge the importance of logistics on the battlefield.

Key leaders of DISCOM took staff rides to France last year and the year before to better learn how and why their predecessors during WWI and WWII made important decisions in the heat of battle, and how they led their own Soldiers through combat – mainly from a logistics standpoint.

"The big thing that most of our officers, senior NCOs and junior NCOs learned were the lessons of always being innovative, agile, and responsive," said Lt. Col. Hielke Welling, the DISCOM support operations officer. "There were things that were happening on the battlefield that caused logisticians to develop solutions to overcome both natural and man-made obstacles. It was mostly about being innovative ... You've got to anticipate so the warfighter never has to change their scheme of maneuver or fails to accomplish their mission due to a lack of resources."

"That kind of heritage is what we're taking forward with the new sustainment brigade," Welling added. "We're always going to be flexible, creative, and power-project logistics anywhere that the Army needs it."

"We're very proud to be in the 11D," O'Connell said. "Now with this modularity effort, we embrace that. We recognize that as part of change. It's going to be tough to take the 11D patch off, but that's part of forward progress for the Army. We are going to have a patch that still has elements of, and is associated with, the Big Red One even though we're now going to be a separate brigade. We embrace the future as logistics modularity moves forward as part of the entire Army modularity plan."



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Post, Army news briefly

Blood drive scheduled

Donations are needed for an upcoming post-wide blood drive. Appointments and walk-ins will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 13 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 14 at Riley's Conference Center.

The goal for the drive is 120 units of all blood types, according to Don Farrow, chief of administration and operations at the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"Most of the time we rely on civilian employees and the families of our soldiers," Farrow said. "But there is a critical shortage of blood, so everyone is encouraged to donate."

To make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

BRO Society's reunion slated

Veterans of the 1st Infantry Division will host their 89th annual reunion Aug. 8-12 at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. The reunion is sponsored by the Big Red One veterans' organization, the Society of the First Infantry Division located in Blue Bell, Penn.

Everyone who ever served in the 1st Inf. Div. or any unit attached to it is cordially invited to attend the reunion.

Details and reservation forms will be available in the spring issue of the Society's newspaper, The Bridgehead Sentinel, or after March 1 on their Web site: www.1stID.org; or from: Society of the First Infantry Division, 1933 Morris Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Phone: (215) 661-1969.

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STATE FARM INSURANCE
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By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas - Thanks to the generosity of 600,000 Americans, wounded warriors now have a \$50 million state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation facility.

The Center for the Intrepid, designed for servicemembers wounded in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, opened Jan. 29 along with two new Fisher Houses during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston that included speeches from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey. R. James Nicholson, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs also spoke at the ceremony.

"There are those who speak about (wounded warriors) today - 'He lost an arm. He lost a leg. She lost her sight.' I object," Pace told the injured troops in attendance.

"You gave an arm, you gave a leg, you gave your sight as gifts to your nation that we might live in freedom."

The \$50 million center was built entirely from private funds through the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which provides assistance to the nation's military heroes injured in the performance of duty and their families.

"This is a red-letter day for this country and for the 600,000 Americans who have contributed a dollar, some more than a million dollars, to make sure our young men and women who have given so much to this country are aware the American people care about them," said Arnold Fisher, chairman of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. "They are our national treasure."

Both the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and the Fisher House Foundation, which makes the Fisher Houses possible, are members of the Defense Department's America Supports You program. The program works to highlight ways

in which Americans support U.S. troops, veterans and their families.

Dozens of wounded warriors joined more than 3,000 guests at the grand opening. The guest list included Sens. Hillary Clinton and John McCain, country group Big & Rich, Rosie O'Donnell, Michelle Pfeiffer, producer David E. Kelley and top military leaders from all branches of service. Rock music star John Mellencamp performed during the ceremony.

Although the audience was packed with the top military leaders and Hollywood celebrities, the wounded warriors received the longest round of applause, along with a standing ovation.

"It's amazing, truly amazing. It really shows the American people care," said wounded warrior Staff Sgt. Daniel Barnes, a bilateral amputee.

The four-story, 60,000-square-foot center was designed for wounded warriors like Barnes. Equipped with the latest rehabili-

See Intrepid, Page 9



The symbol of a broken ring, cracked but still intact, marks the entrance to the new Center for the Intrepid, a 65,000 square foot rehabilitation center next to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Adjacent to the center, created by private donations for amputees and critical burn victims are two 16,800 square foot Fisher Houses that can accommodate up to 42 families visiting their injured loved ones.

Fort Sam Houston/Reehl

Joint Commission to conduct IACH survey

IACH

The Joint Commission will conduct an accreditation survey of Irwin Army Community Hospital on Feb. 13-16.

The purpose of the survey is to evaluate IACH's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. Survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded to the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organization quality and safety-of-care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided.

Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process.

Requests for a public infor-

mation interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview.

Such requests should be addressed to the Division of Accreditation Operations, Office of Quality Monitoring, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Requests can also be faxed to (630) 792-5636 or e-mailed to complaint@jcaho.org.

An Account Representative will contact the individual requesting the public information interview prior to the survey, indicating the location, date and time of the interview and the name of the surveyor who will conduct the interview.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission's requirements.

NSPS continued from page 1

and Expert. Most employees will spend all or most of their careers in the Full Performance band—Pay band 2 of the Standard Career Group. Pay will be adjusted through base increases and bonuses that result from meeting or exceeding performance objectives. Pay and bonuses are parceled out from a pay pool, overseen by a central manager who validates annual performance appraisals and is responsible for ensuring that the pay pool is fairly and equitably managed.

The pay pool is built on an appraisal system that rates employees from a high of 5 to a low of 1, with most employees getting the middle ranking of 3, called 'valued employee'. This will be a major culture change from the current rating system, which is inflated to the point that anything less than the top rating is considered failure.

Human Resource experts say communication between supervisors and employees is especially important under NSPS because performance objectives are broader and more mission focused under NSPS than the task-oriented objectives of the outgoing Total Army Performance Evaluation System, or TAPES. Under

For more info:

For more information, visit the NSPS Web site at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/>

NSPS, performance objectives will be written in the SMART format, meaning they are Specific, Measurable, Aligned (with the mission), Realistic/Relevant, and Timed.

Training is vital leading up to the conversion, especially in managing pay pools and writing SMART performance objectives, officials say.

"We're working with the regions and garrisons to make sure everyone gets the training they need during this transition time," said IMCOM NSPS Transition Team manager Steve Fluegeman. "The NSPS 101 course online is an excellent primer and it's the first mandatory training for everyone converting."

Employees converting in Spiral 1.3 include managers supervisors, and non-bargaining unit employees from the General Schedule,

General Manager, Alternative Personnel Systems, and Acquisition Demo pay schedules. Bargaining unit employees will not convert until litigation concerning collective bargaining agreements is resolved. Federal Wage System employees also are not converting in this round.

To date, 77,000 non-bargaining unit DoD civilians, including 13,000 from the Army, have converted to NSPS with no loss of pay. In fact, some 80 percent have gotten pay increases resulting from time accrued toward their next within-grade increase under the general schedule.

"This will be a very positive change that will appropriately reward our employees," Macdonald said. NSPS will enable us to align our employees' performance objectives with our mission of providing top services to Soldiers and their families."

NSPS is a DoD program that has been in development since 2004. The NSPS Web site has a wealth of information, including printable brochures, frequently asked questions, periodic bulletins, and the NSPS 101 training that is required for all converting employees and recommended for everyone else.

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Post, Army news briefly

Bereavement support offered

Homecare & Hospice will be conducting a five-week bereavement support group for adults in the Manhattan area who have lost a loved one.

The support group entitled "From Loss to New Life" will provide support and education to individuals moving through the grief process due to the loss of a loved one in the recent or distant past. The group is designed to be a safe and confidential environment to share one's thoughts and feelings regarding loss as well as a place to work together to understand the grieving process.

The "From Loss to New Life" group will meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Homecare & Hospice conference room located at 323 Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan. The group will begin Feb. 20 and end March 15.

Attending the group is free of charge and Homecare & Hospice will provide all necessary materials.

For more information, con-

tact Dan Clayton, social worker, at (785) 537-0688 or (800) 748-7474.

Scholarships offered

2007 Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Campaign, Fort Riley College/Vocational Scholarship applications are now available.

The Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Committee (FRSCS) offers undergraduate college and vocational school scholarships to Fort Riley affiliated high school seniors, current college/vocational students, and spouses of active, retired, or deceased military members.

Applications are now available through local high schools, online at www.riley.army.mil, or can be requested by e-mailing fortrileyscholarship@hotmail.com.

The deadline for applications is March 10.

For more information, contact Juliet Follansbee, FRSCS chairperson, at (785) 784-9927 or fortrileyscholarship@hotmail.com.

McCarty

continued from page 1

said.

"The officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians assigned to the Combined Arms Center will miss the calm tactical savvy of this focused leader," he said.

Bruner, who replaced McCarty as CAC command sergeant major, acknowledged the leadership of McCarty and said he would never be forgotten. He then read a quote he said was befitting of McCarty. "Leaders are much like eagles. They don't flock together; you find them one at a time," Bruner said. "Cory, you are that eagle."

During the ceremony, Holly Petraeus, wife of the CAC commander, read a letter to McCarty from her husband, who was in Washington, D.C., for Congressional hearings.

"Throughout your time as the Combined Arms Center command sergeant major, you served me exceptionally well, and I came to rely heavily on your consistently sound advice and wonderful common sense. Soldiers of your caliber are a rare breed, and the Army will miss your services," she read.

McCarty took the opportunity to thank his family, including his wife.

"Bonnie, you have been the foundation of our family, and your job has been 10 times as hard as mine on any given day. You've held us together," McCarty said.

McCarty went on to thank numerous Soldiers by name whom he served with in Operation Iraqi Freedom II and Kosovo. Many of them were in the crowd of 200 people.

"I'm really proud to serve you guys. I think we were the best unit in the best combat division (1st Infantry Division) in the world," McCarty said.

Jeff Crawley, staff writer with the Fort Leavenworth Lamp, provided information and quotes for this article.

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Cory McCarty (right) and Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste unfurl the Big Red One colors at a transfer of authority ceremony in Tikrit, Iraq, in March 2004.

The 1st Infantry Division assumed operational command in Iraq from the 4th Infantry Division.
196th MPAD/Casper



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Commentary

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What would you like to see more of in the Post newspaper?



"I'd like to see more focus on how families are surviving during the deployment process."

Chap. (Maj.) John Messer
Pastor, Main Post Chapel
U.S. Army Garrison
Home: Alta Vista, Kan.



"I like when they ask Soldiers questions and seeing Soldier feedback."

Spc. Justin Gray
Military policeman
116th MP Co.
Home: Ravenden, Ark.



"Activities for the weekend besides the carnival, like an on-post flea market or festival."

Grace Smith
PX concessionaire
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"I'd like to see major headlines from other posts."

Cpl. Robert Savant
Squad leader
1st Bn., 28th Inf.
Home: Vile Platte, La.



"I want to know what kind of crime is happening on post."

Staff Sgt. David Gulley
Ceremonial support group NCO
HIB, 4th Bn., 1st FA
Home: Pontiac, Mich.

Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached.

Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

Car seats safe when used correctly

By Pete Wiemers

Health Promotion Educator



FOR YOUR HEALTH



Pete Wiemers

Safe Kids Worldwide wants to reassure parents and caregivers that car seats are safe and effective when used according to manufacturers' instructions. Every car seat on the market in the United States has passed the same rigorous crash tests required by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Parents should not fear for their children's safety in cars in response to a recent Consumers Union report raising questions about the performance of infant car seats. Consumers Union has now retracted the report.

If your infant car seat is less than six years old, has never been in a crash, is reclining at about a 45-degree angle in the back seat and if the harness straps are adjusted correctly for your baby, then you're giving your baby the safest ride possible with current technology.

Car seat manufacturers are required to test their products against federal standards using standardized procedures. Most manufacturers say they voluntarily test to higher

standards. The federal standards do not call for side-impact crash tests at this time. Car seat manufacturers are working with the International Standards Organization to develop

global standards that will include side-impact tests. The highest standard in the world today is in Australia, where car seats have to pass a side-impact crash test at 19 miles per hour. We want to see the technology continue to improve, but we don't want parents to lose confidence in their car seats today — the best protection available.

Any car seat made after 2002 can be installed either with safety belts or the LATCH system, if

the vehicle is equipped with lower anchors for a car seat. Use safety belts or LATCH for an infant, whichever you prefer, but not both. If you're worried about LATCH, use the safety belt. Above all, take the time to read the instructions for your car seat cover to cover and the owner's manual for your car for proper installation.

Testing booster seats

Test all children under age 13 to be sure they are big enough to safely

wear the adult safety belt without a booster seat. To test a child: Have the child sit all the way back on the vehicle seat. Check to see if the knees bend at the seat edge. If they bend naturally, move on to the next step. If they do not, return to the booster seat. Buckle the lap and shoulder belts. Be sure the lap belt lies on the upper legs or hips. If it stays on the upper legs or thighs, move

on to the next step. If it does not, return to the booster seat.

• Be sure the shoulder belt lies on the shoulder or collarbone. If it lies on the shoulder, move on to the next step. If it is on the face or neck, return to the booster seat.

• DO NOT place the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the child's back. Be sure your child can maintain that correct seating position for as long as you are in the car. If your child begins to slouch or shift positions so the safety belt contacts the face, neck or stomach, return your child to the booster seat until all the test steps can be met.

Require your child to use a safety belt in every vehicle, whether or not you are there to remind him or her.

Parents who need help installing or adjusting a car seat can get free hands-on training from a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician through the Preventive Medicine Service, call 239-7323 to make an appointment or visit the Safe Kids Buckle Up page at www.usa.safekids.org for more information about child passenger safety.

Contagious attitudes Spouse warns against mood virus

By Jacey Eckhart

CinCHouse.com

I walked into the house the other night feeling down. Not only had I finished every errand but I got to talk to Brad about the ship's commissioning schedule at the same time.

Finding the kitchen cleaned up when I walked in the back door was an unexpected bonus — wiped counters, running dishwasher, swept floor.

"Who cleaned up the kiit-chenmmm?" I sang out. Kelsey's head appeared over the back of the couch to glare at me. "It was me. I did it," she grumbled. The head disappeared. The grumbling kept going like a '74 Pinto wagon had taken over the couch.

By the time I had brought my packages into the house, I felt like I had some new strain of the flu. I spent the rest of the evening mewing under a quilt and looking for a cure for this mood online.

I didn't find one, which is weird, because this happens to me all the time. No matter how positive my own mood is, when I get around either one of my teens I pick up all their moods like a virus. If they had a bad day, suddenly my day seems kind of bad, too. If they feel glad, I get a little lift. If they feel like a pizza, suddenly I am craving pepperoni without anyone ever saying a word.

You'd think someone would have come up with a cure for this, but so far we only have a diagnosis.

In his new book "The Science of Human Relationships," award-winning author Daniel Goleman reports how we really do catch moods from other people the same way we pick up colds and flu. It isn't just teenagers we catch moods from but our bosses and our spouses and the com-

mand master chief and the cashier at the Exchange. Even the gate guard can pass you a mood right through the window.

Where people can usually identify what caused them to have a certain feeling such as anger or sadness, it's much harder to identify where a mood came from. The sensors that pick up on

mood are working so fast that our intelligence struggles to keep up with them, which could be my problem anyway.

Goleman points out that new developments in neuroscience are showing that our brain is designed to have an instant brain-to-brain linkup whenever we hang out with any other person. The more strongly connected we are with someone emotionally, the greater the mood connection. Maybe that's why it can be hard to be around the folks in our command sometimes or even our own kids. Because we're close, we catch their moods.

So far, scientists have not discovered a way to insulate ourselves from the effect — aside from skipping support group meetings and avoiding eye contact with all teens. Instead, they are busy thing how miraculous this sensation is, how we can maximize its use.

But I want more. I must spend time with my kids. I need to see people who also are conducting their military marriages long distance. A lot of good mental health is passed along when we are together.

So pass the antimoodarial soap, please, or a mood-diffusing mask, or a protecting spray. Because coping with the moods brought on by military life is no joke, man. I'm going to need all the help that science can provide.

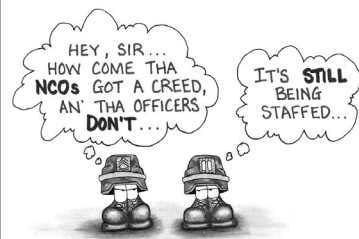
A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is the author of *The Homefront Club* (Naval Institute Press 2004) and the host of "The Jacey Eckhart Show for Military Families" (www.cinchouse.com/jacey).

Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) — (785) 307-1373
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program — (785) 239-9435
Chaplains — (785) 239-4357
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room — (785) 239-7777
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)
Local Police (on and off post) — 911

For confidential, free services, including safe shelter, call The Crisis Center, Inc. (24 hours) — (800) 727-2785
Kansas Statewide Hotline — 1-888-END-ABUSE (363-2287)
National Domestic Violence Hotline — 1-800-799-SAFE (7235)

Grunt By Wayne Ulden



FORT RILEY POST

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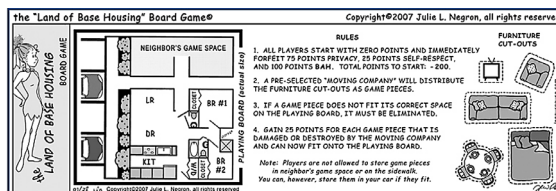
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THE MILITARY
SPOUSE





Clinic becomes one-stop-shop for aviators

By Sgt. Nicole Clarke
CAB PAO

The Combat Aviation Brigade Aviation Medical Clinic is a new asset to the Fort Riley community. Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and the 97th Military Police Battalion are seen at the Aviation Medical Clinic.

"The aviation clinic is one a one-stop shop for CAB personnel," said Maj. Tim Duffy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CAB. "We have hearing booths, an eye testing area, an EKG machine, and we are able to process blood work. These are all things that are part of the flight physical process."

Every year aviators have to go through a flight physical, and now with the Aviation Clinic the aviators can get it all done in one place instead of having to go to multiple clinics at Irwin Army Community Hospital, Duffy said.

"The new clinic is absolutely an asset to Fort Riley," Duffy said.

The clinic saves the emergency room a lot of time, said Barbara McCosh, a registered nurse with MEDDAC. "We triage the patients here, and we also dispense a majority of the medications that the doctors prescribe."

"We are able to save time with minor accidents that happen on the airfield," McCosh added. "We are able to do sutures, wrap sprained ankles and other various things."

McCosh is a civilian RN permanently assigned to the Aviation Medical Clinic. She is one of many MEDDAC civilians and Soldiers on staff at the clinic.

Pfc. Emil Garafola, an air traf-

fic controller, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, has been at Fort Riley since before there was an Aviation clinic to go to.

"Having the aviation clinic down on the airfield makes the process faster," Garafola said. "It's easier now that all the CAB has one place to go to."

Garafola said it's nice to come to the aviation clinic. The flight surgeons are nice, and they know the restrictions that are put onto aviation personnel, she said.

With the clinic here there is more one-on-one care, said Staff Sgt. Sean Gillespie, MEDDAC. The patients are able to see a flight surgeon instead of a regular doctor.

The importance of having a flight surgeon seeing the aviation patients is that they are familiar with the medicines that aviators can and can not have, Duffy said.

The clinic offers everything from sick call to flight physicals, Gillespie said. They also provide routine appointments for the Soldiers and their dependents.

During sick call the doctors treat such ailments as common colds, viral illnesses and IV hydration, McCosh said.

About 50 Soldiers a day come through the clinic for sick call.

During a recent visit, Garafola was seen by Duffy, the CAB flight surgeon, for a muscle he injured while weightlifting. In addition to recommending Garafola not do pushups or lift anything over 30 pounds, Duffy also performed acupuncture on Garafola.

The acupuncture dispenses heat out of the muscle and relieves the pain, Duffy said.

Duffy received certification in acupuncture through a nine-



month program at Stanford University.

"Acupuncture is a drug-free alternative method to relieving pain and is good for the aviation field," Duffy said. "I can get the patient back in the cockpit flying the same day."

For Garafola this wasn't a new procedure.

He has received acupuncture before, his mother practices acupuncture in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minn. "It went very well, my pain level was reduced," Garafola said. "It was nice to have the option for the alternative treatment, and it's nice to get treatment without losing flight status."

Maj. Tim Duffy, HHFC, CAB inserts an acupuncture needle into the back of Pfc. Emil Garafola, Co. F, 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt. at the Aviation Medical Clinic Feb. 1. The treatment was to treat a pulled muscle in Garafola's upper back.

CAB PAO/Clarke

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Post, Army news briefly

Family workshop offered

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families for Army Families provides much-needed framework for applying universal, self-evident principles that enable family members to better communicate about their problems and solve them successfully.

The workshop will be offered on Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1, 6 and 7 and will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

Free limited-child care will be available on site with early registration (immunization records required).

For additional information or reservations contact the Family Advocacy Program at 785-239-9435 or email site266@riley.army.mil.

Workshop slated

Chaplains, Commanders, Senior NCOs, and professionals are invited to attend the 4 Disciplines of Execution.

The workshop is intended to get everyone within the Fort Riley community in agreement on what the few (1-3) most critical things are that must be accomplished.

The one-day workshop will be held March 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

Interested individuals can contact the Family Advocacy Program at 785-239-9435 or at site266@riley.army.mil.

Laundry services provided on post

The laundry Drop Off/Pick Up Point for services provided by PENN Enterprises, Inc. is located at Building 229, the old commissary, on Custer Avenue. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Construction

continued from page 1



Audrey Elliott of Denver, Colo., attaches a valve inside the new headquarters building under construction at Fort Riley.

Post/Pence

The CAB complex and runway improvements, as well as the Sustainment Brigade headquarters ideally should have started at the beginning of Fiscal Year '07, Smith said. However, the Appropriations bill was not passed and the projects have been on-hold for four months.

• Child Development Center, \$5.7 million

Military construction projects include:

- Child Development Center, \$5.2 million
- Vehicle inspection and cargo processing facility, \$10.2 million
- Barracks complex, \$32 million

The project delays have caused

some challenges already and future decisions could force re-deploying or modularizing units to move around on post a few times. However, Smith said he is convinced that "everything will be fine in the long term."

"We have confidence in the end that our civilian leaders, Congress will not break their faith with Soldiers," Smith said. "We'll work this out."



Post/Pence

Stonemasons prepare individual stones to be placed on the facing of the new headquarters building under construction at Fort Riley. The division headquarters is already a "done deal" and construction is actually ahead of schedule, Garrison Commander Col. Thomas Smith said during a press conference Feb. 2.

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741581 sprint thank you





Transition teams secure relationships on border

By Sgt. Shannon Crane
129th MPAD

RABEA, Iraq – It is early morning at the point of entry where two countries meet – Iraq and Syria.

Two men in different uniforms stand near a sand-colored tower. They look off in the distance and wait for signs of activity, anticipating the mass of vehicles and pedestrians who will soon attempt to gain access to one of the neighboring nations. But at this time of day, the only thing crossing the border is the occasional gust of sand carried by the breeze.

The two men, an American Soldier and an Iraqi Border Patrol agent, engage in friendly dialogue. Each makes an effort to speak the other's native language – a little broken English here, some broken Arabic there – followed by laughter and warm handshakes.

Observing this exchange, it becomes evident the border is not the only thing being secured in this remote area. Members of the Border Transition Teams are securing relationships, as well.

"ABTT is like any other transition team in Iraq," said Capt. Nicholas Rivera, a transition team adviser from Fort Bragg, N.C. "We're here to train the Iraqis that we work with, specifically on the border."

The BTTs work side by side with their Iraqi counterparts — advising, coaching, teaching and mentoring them to become more self-sufficient. In the process, personal and professional relationships

ships are developed.

"It's because they are working so closely," said Brig. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commander of the Iraqi Assistance Group, which provides administrative support to the embedded transition teams, "and often times, the Department of Border Enforcement and the Border Patrol are so dependant on the Border Transition Teams."

What distinguishes Rivera's team from most BTTs is they work at a point of entry near the small village of Rabea, thrusting them into the world of customs measures and procedures. "We're actually considered a Point of Entry Team," said Staff Sgt. Mark Whited, transition team adviser from Fort Lee, Va. "We work with the whole Port of Entry, which is the customs inspectors, the customs police and the Customs Security Battalion."

Regardless of the good working relationships embedded transition teams may have with their Iraqi counterparts, each team has its own obstacles to overcome. Being in a remote location is one of the things presenting challenges to the BTTs.

"Right now, it is an economy of force mission," Pittard said. "There are challenges as far as not having a partnership unit that you can easily get resources from as a BTT."

"We're on a smaller forward operating base," Rivera said. "We don't have the (contracted) support that the bigger FOBs have. We're quite a ways away from the larger camps, like Mosul, Tal Afar. So to get supplies up here, it's got to come up once a week.



129th MPAD/Crane

Capt. Nicholas Rivera, a border transition team adviser, greets an Iraqi customs agent at the point of entry in Rabea, Iraq. Embedded transition teams support Iraqi units with expertise, planning assistance and evaluation to facilitate quality training.

Just for our own sustenance."

There are difficulties in obtaining equipment for the Iraqis, as well, said Rivera.

"The Iraqi equipment we get is coming all the way from down in Baghdad," he said. "We have to wait for it to get all the way to Mosul, coordinate transportation from Mosul up here, so it's just a lot of steps in the support process. "And then, just the daily support – maintenance support, being

in direct contact with your immediate chain of command about small issues – to go down and see maintenance or go down and see different personnel, we have to get all our vehicles together and actually make a whole movement for a day or two."

Other challenges experienced by Rivera's team correlate to the uniqueness of working customs security at the point of entry.

"The Army doesn't teach you

anything about the Port of Entry and customs," Whited said, "so it was brand new to us."

"As far as being on the border and being up here ... a problem that we have, that we don't have down in central Iraq, is the smuggling," said Rivera.

A lot of the Soldiers, probably before the last couple of teams came up here, didn't have a lot of experience working with that kind of stuff," he said. "We're going through the whole 'crawl, walk, run' phase, but doing it on the job."

U.S. Customs agents, dispatched to assist the BTTs, have been instrumental in showing the Iraqis how to detect smuggling activity, quickly identifying and correcting shortcomings in their customs measures, said Rivera.

"If you look up at the Syrian border," Pittard said, "we've got BTTs that are making a world of difference in partnership with U.S. Customs officials in helping to train Iraqi Border Patrol units, as well as Iraqi port of entry soldiers."

"We've seen where a number of smuggled goods have been captured or detected through the efforts of the Border Transition Teams. The entire professionalism

of the BTTs along the Syrian border has increased remarkably."

Where some things change – specifically, the improvement in the Iraqi border patrol's abilities – others seem to stay the same. Those solid relationships between the Americans and the Iraqis remain intact, evidenced by the hospitality shown to the team by their counterparts.

Whited commented on how the Iraqis frequently invite the team to dinner, have conversations over chai tea, and exchange treats on the line.

"They have families that live right up along side the POE, so we see their kids everyday," he said. "They come up and shake our hands. We give them candy, they bring us stuff – it's fun."

"It appears to be working pretty good," he added. "Otherwise, we wouldn't be invited to dinner all the time and getting high fives and shakes out there."

Rivera commented on the positive interaction he has had with the Iraqis this tour, in contrast with his previous tour where he worked in convoy security.

"My perception of the Iraqi soldiers, the Iraqi leadership, has changed quite a bit from last year to this year," he said.

He also said he looks forward to going home and sharing his observations with his family, having seen Iraq from two different angles.

Whited agreed, and said working on a transition team has been an eye-opening experience.

"It does let you see things from the other side, actually working with the Iraqis and seeing that all the people aren't bad in the country," he said.

"Everything they show back in the States – they show pretty much the bad stuff. But that's the one thing on being on the transition teams and working with them, you actually get to see the good that we do bring out to it."

"We are making an impact over here for these guys," Rivera said. "If I had to come back over here for a second job, this is what I'd prefer to be doing."

BTTs continued from page 1

instruction all the time."

Since 1st Brigade has taken the reins for transition team training, several initiatives have been implemented. One initiative is for transition team personnel in training to talk to deployed teams.

The brigade makes arrangements with deployed transition team members on mid-term leave to the states to come back to Camp Funston and talk to their counterparts, often talking directly to their actual replacements.

"Many team members tell me this is very helpful," said Capt. Du Brown, 1st Bde S-3 current operations officer. "Everyone seems to benefit from the contact."

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gilliam said he benefited from the border patrol classes.

"The classes were very informative," Gilliam said. "It gave us something specific that we are going to be doing. Their expertise is topnotch."

The goal of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the

military TT Soldiers are the same, Walters said.

"We want to empower them with the responsibility of their borders, to be able to perform their duty to interdict terrorists, freedom fighters and instruments of terror."

In training Iraqis, Deleon said he would spot someone in class in Jordan who he thought would be a good person to bring back as a trainer. Often that would happen and a future class of Iraqis would have an Iraqi instructor.

Having Iraqis train-the-trainer

seemed like a logical step, Deleon said. "We all want the Iraqis to take the lead for their own country."

Bringing real world experience in the form of the border patrol to TT training and keeping in-touch with deployed TT Soldiers are just two of the ways 1st Bde is continuing to enhance TT training.

"We stand ready to do what is necessary to improve TT training and make it as real world as we can," said Maj. Dave Wood, 1st Bde. S-3 operations officer.

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BCCC receives CBRN award

BCCC

Barton County Community College's Fort Riley Military Programs earned a commendation with an official visit from the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army's Chemical Corps, Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Alston.

Alston came to Barton's campus at Fort Riley to honor the college's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear School, which provides training to Fort Riley soldiers in each of those means of warfare.

Barton's associate dean for Environmental Technology and Military Programs, Bill Nash, accepted the certificate for Barton's military programs at Fort Riley.

The certificate commends Barton's program for its dedication to excellence in delivering "unsurpassed educational opportunities that continue to strengthen the professionalism of the Dragon Soldier."

The college has displayed "an unwavering determination to provide our Soldiers with relevant CBRN training — training that

remains vital to our combatant commanders, our warfighters and the protection of our homeland," Alston stated while presenting the certificate.

In addition, the sergeant major recognized Barton's "tailored curriculum, which epitomizes the Chemical Corps's vision of lifelong education."

Also attending the presentation made during a class session of the CBRN training program was Sgt. Maj. William Backscheider representing Fort Riley.

Intrepid continued from page 3

tation technology, it is a potential athlete's dream. The facility includes an indoor running track, firing range, pool, two-story climbing wall, prosthetic center and a computer assisted rehabilitation environment known as CAREN.

The environment is comprised of a dome with a 4-meter platform and screen, simulating everything from a city sidewalk to a day on the lake so patients can improve their gait and balancing skills. The unit is one of nine in the world, and it is the only one in the United States.

"What you see before you is a monument built by contributions by 600,000 Americans," Fisher said. "This is a monument to not only the men and women and their families who will come here, but a monument to the generosity of our citizens and their love for those who serve."

The center will initially cater to amputees and burn patients injured in the global war on ter-

rorism, but is hoped to expand to encompass retirees, family members and veterans.

"This is my son's (Ken Fisher) and my commitment, and our mission," Fisher said. "We'll continue this as long as it's necessary. Our only wish is that a place like this someday, it will become a garage."

Two Fisher Houses added on post

The two new Fisher Houses bring the on-post total to four. Fisher Houses serve as a home away from home for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers.

The 21-room homes are built in the newer Fisher House style, with a sprawling 16,800 square feet, as opposed to 5,000-plus square feet.

Families will be able to live in comfort and style as they care for their loved ones at Brooke Army

Medical Center in homes that more closely resemble a Malibu mansion than temporary military housing.

Each home has a kitchen, a formal dining room, several sitting rooms and bedrooms equipped with DVD/VCR systems and flat screen TVs.

"What a privilege it is to render assistance to military families," said Ken Fisher, chairman of the Fisher House Foundation.

Pace echoed the sentiment. "Thank you to the families - families of the fallen, families of the wounded. You sacrifice in ways that people who have not walked in your shoes can only imagine. When we are wounded, you are there to help put us back together. Those of you who are family members of fallen and of wounded have served this country as well as anyone who has ever worn the uniform."

The facility is named after the aircraft carrier Intrepid.

HOUSE FILL AD

DAILY UNION
6 x 15.5"
Black Only
service directory



Company shows why Baghdad needs woman's touch

By Capt. Linwood Hilton
2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Most infantry Soldiers would be a little surprised to see a woman Soldier riding with them in their Bradley fighting vehicle through the streets of Baghdad.

But Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, regularly conduct search missions with women Soldiers.

The women of the battalion's Company F are often integrated into the mission just in case local national women or children need to be searched or secured.

Due to current laws and customs, women are not allowed to be ground soldiers for the Iraqi Army. That's where the women of Co. F come in.

Each team on patrol needs a woman on hand in order to deal with Iraqi women and children without upsetting the Iraqis cultural beliefs.

In addition to searching and



Sgt. Fay Dantzer (left) and Sgt. Maria Johnson prepare to load up and roll out with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to conduct joint operations with the Iraqi Army. The women Soldiers go on patrols in order to search suspicious women and children.

2nd Bn., 12th Cav./Hilton

securing people, the armor-clad women are also able to contribute to the education of the Iraqi troops.

"Our job right now is primarily to oversee the Iraqi Army and to guide them," says Sgt. Tory Viveros, one of the women search team leaders.

Their most recent mission was

to find any evidence of insurgent activity or any other suspicious activities, and also look for caches of AK-47's, grenades and mortars.

During the last three missions, search teams have uncovered two large arms caches, several roadside bomb building kits and

detained five suspects for processing and questioning.

The job may be tough but these troops aren't complaining.

"I think most Soldiers can agree that they don't want to be out there, but once you're out, it's fun because of the adrenaline rush. It's exciting and dangerous at the same time," said Sgt. Maria Johnson, who assisted in finding a hidden roadside bomb construction lab.

The feeling must be quite common because Pfc. Bobbie Hallahan commented, "We are here as female searchers providing support for the Iraqi Army. I was only scared for the first two minutes, but after that... It was hard work. I'm not going to lie. It wore me out, but it was fun and a good experience."

On many missions, women dismount with their male counter-

parts and go into a location after it is cleared.

The women search team troops of Co. F remain vigilant and ready for the call to assist the battalion day in, and day out.

"In the end, we are all combat arms Soldiers and have to do what needs to be done to get the mission accomplished," said Sgt. Fay Dantzer, another member of the search team.

HOUSE FILL AD

Little Apple chorus
2 x 2.5"
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JON MURDOCK AUTO MALL
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2x8 Murdock Wc#1

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FULL COLOR pu 1/31



Fort Riley Community Life

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Page 11

Community news briefly

Interest sought for post club

The Red Cross want to see if there is enough interest from military teens to start a year-round Red Cross Youth Club at Fort Riley's American Red Cross.

An informational meeting for teens 13-17 will be held at 10 a.m. April 7. The meeting will be held in the Relocation Room at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Bldg. 7264 Normandy Dr.

Teens will need to enter through the North door and may follow the directional signs. Call the Red Cross office at 239-1887 to sign up.

Dollar days at thrift shop

Every Thursday is Dollar Days on select items at the Thrift Shop. For more information contact the Thrift Shop at 784-3873.

Spring Funds Distribution applications will be available on Feb. 15 at the Thrift Shop. All applications must be received by close of business or postmarked by April 29. Have a little extra time on your hands? The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers, inquire at the Shop.

OCSC game night scheduled

Fort Riley's Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club will host a February "Game Show" luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 15 at the Courtyard Marriott Convention Center in Junction City.

Spouses will compete in games and win a host of prizes. The menu will feature a bistro buffet including a garden salad, assorted gourmet wraps, bistro sandwiches and chips. Cheesecake, iced tea, coffee, and water are included for \$15.

Please RSVP to Kerrie Arcand at 784-2817 by Feb. 8. Childcare reservations can be made by calling 784-4298.

Prayer luncheon scheduled

The Installation and Division Chaplains' Offices will host the National Prayer Luncheon at Riley's Conference Center from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 21.

In addition to a simple luncheon of meat balls, chicken wings, egg rolls, mini-sandwiches, trays of cold vegetables, fruit and cookies, the program will include special music by the Phil and Pam Morgan Gospel Music Ministry.

The Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. David Hicks will be the guest speaker.

The serving line will open at 11:15 a.m., with the program slated to begin at noon and end at 1 p.m.

A suggested donation of \$6 to assist with the cost of the luncheon may be paid at the door.

For more information about the event, call the Installation Chaplain's Office at 239-3359.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

High five



Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley greets students at Fort Riley Elementary school Jan. 30. Ham spoke to kindergarten through fifth-grade students during an assembly about the importance of a good education.

PAO/Miss

Post to celebrate black history month

By Master Sgt. Jack Lee
1st Bde. PAO

Since 1926, America has celebrated black history thanks to the pioneering spirit of one person – Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D. That year, Woodson founded the celebration as Black History Week to showcase the achievements and contributions of African-Americans to history. In 1976, the celebration was lengthened to become Black History Month.

Woodson chose February for the celebration because he felt it marked the birthdays of two men who significantly influenced the African-American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

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For more information:

To learn more about Black History Month, visit <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/blackhis/history/> or the History Channel Web site at www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory/.

Dr. Carter G. Woodman is recognized as the father of Black History Month and Negro History Week. To learn more about Woodman, visit <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/blackhis/woodson.htm>.

For a list and biographies of 500 notable African-Americans, visit <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmbios1.html>.

To learn more about performing artist Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux, visit <http://aflyinggeese.com/>.

Fort Riley will host its annual African American/Black History Month Observance from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Feb. 14 at Riley's Conference Center. The event will remember the achievements of Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist known as the "Moses of Her People."

"The Resurrection of Harriet

Tubman," will be performed by Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux, a performing artist from Houston, Texas. Last year, Waddy-Thibodeaux performed "Meet Rosa Parks," and said she is eager to return to Fort Riley this year.

Waddy-Thibodeaux will reveal little-known facts about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman in her account of the abolitionist's life.

This program is free and open to all Soldiers, family members and civilians of Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. For more information, call the Fort Riley Equal Opportunity Office at 239-3379.

Area program begins classes

Facilitators help families with school transitions

Parent-to-Parent Program

A parent team from Fort Riley completed Parent-to-Parent training in Texas and is back to share their knowledge with the Fort Riley community.

The team, composed of Stephanie Seigel, Erin Johannes, Michelle Zachar and Tiffany Jones, recently completed the Parent to Parent Initiative training conducted by the Military Child Education Coalition.

The team will provide customized workshops in the area, providing parents with tools and knowledge to ensure their children receive the greatest benefit from their educational experiences.

The curriculum covers processes and procedures for improving student transitions, planning for moves – both immediate and long term, and using available technologies and effective communication with schools at both sending and receiving locations. The training is based on a broad range of research-based practices and strategies and grade-specific information to assist parents in supporting their children's education.

The Parent-to-Parent program is funded by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center – Child and Youth Services and is a part of a larger Army effort to support families with school transitions.

...

The following workshops are open to the public:

• 10 a.m., Feb. 13 – Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City – Math and Science Activities for Little Ones

• 7 p.m., Feb. 20 – Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City – Successful Parent/Teacher Conferences

To learn more about the Parent to Parent program, contact team members at 226-9164 or rileyparent2parent@yahoo.com.

Picerne awards \$90k to students

By Mike Heronemus

Managing Editor, Daily Union

A 17-year-old Junction City High School senior got a \$40,000 Christmas present from the company that manages family housing on Fort Riley.

"Mr. Picerne called me Christmas Eve, and I called him back the next day," said Erin Lahan, a 17-year-old senior at Junction City High School and daughter of Sgt. Maj. Mark Lahan at Fort Riley.

"He said, 'This is so cool' (about being able to tell her she had won the scholarship), and I said, 'Yes, it is,'" Lahan recounted. "We just chatted for a while."

Lahan and three other military family members received scholarships and education grants Feb. 1 through a new program set up to help the people living in quarters on post.

See Scholarship, Page 12

27 post employees graduate leadership course

By Teresa Johnson
DMWR

Twenty-seven post employees took a step forward in their careers when they recently graduated from Fort Riley's Employee Development Program pilot course.

"I thought it was a great class and I was glad to be a part of the pilot program," said Victoria Bliesner an employee in the chaplain's office. "I think it will be very helpful to future students. Too often, we are put in leadership positions without really knowing how to deal with that position. I think this class was extremely helpful in this area."

The free program was the result of employee comments on post attitude surveys and the Gar-

ison Commander's desire to improve the work environment on post.

Participants received fundamental training in communication, writing, leadership, basic human resources, customer service, work ethics and motivation.

"All the instructors did a good job covering a variety of useful topics that can be used to increase your skill level," said Tess Sprau, a class member from the Directorate of Logistics. Input and views from class members from different directorates greatly contributed to the learning process of the program, Sprau added.

Each series of six classes takes place over a three-month period. This means that while employees are participating in the develop-

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Courtesy photo

Participants of the Employee Development Program pilot course on post gather with their guests at CPAC before graduation.





Mentoring program encourages Soldiers to keep up with school

By **Spc. Stephen Baack**
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Educators and leaders from across post gathered for a kick-off luncheon to commit to the post-sponsored mentoring program to help Soldiers achieve their education goals Jan. 31 at Riley's Conference Center.

The program aims to match up student-Soldiers with volunteers who want to support their academic goals – whether it is attaining a degree, learning a subject or doing extra studying after work – through encouragement, advice and being a role model.

"The intent of the mentoring program is for what I call our established leaders to mentor emerging leaders – our future leaders. This is a critical time in U.S. history and I think this is the most important time that we can give something back to the Soldiers for their sacrifices," said Dr. Fred Rodriguez, program creator and director of Fort Riley Education Services.

Program endorsed by Army, civilian leaders

Organized by Rodriguez and Education Services, more than 20 commanders and command sergeants major on post have endorsed the program. These supporters include Maj. Gen. Carter F. Ham, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general; Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourman, 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major; Brig. Gen. James C. Yarbrough, 1st Inf. Div. assistant division commander, operations; and others from division-level, post-level and brigade-level command groups.

The program also has been

How to join:

For more information about the program or to become a mentor or mentee, contact E. Ester Mayfield at ester.mayfield@us.army.mil or 239-6481.

endorsed by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, a group of senators and congressional leaders, and a number of other high-ranking civilian officials.

Representatives from local and out-of-state colleges and universities attended the luncheon, as well as many state and congressional representatives. Also in attendance were retired Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz and retired Lt. Gen. Michael Dodson.

Rodriguez said the program is meant not only to benefit Soldiers, but "equally important is that we are involving the community," he said. "The mentors are consisting of not only our senior military leaders, but senior civilian leadership that come from academia, business, the civic environment and the political arena. So it's a complete program where everyone's involved and we're building community at the same time."

While the program is new and just starting to match up mentors to "mentees," Rodriguez said all a volunteer mentor needs to have is a big heart and a goal of contributing to the education of Soldiers.

"This idea of mentoring, this idea of role models, which has certainly worked well for us in the military, it has certainly worked well in the academic environment, it works extraordinarily well in business and other

aspects of government," Ham said. "To me, there is no reason in the world it ought not to work equally well for our students."

Ham said he hopes the program gets the attention of other installations and spreads across the military.

"That it started here at Fort Riley, Kansas, is a good thing," Ham said. "It's got the right people, the right mentors, the right students, and the right consortium of institutions of higher learning to make this program a tremendous success. With your help and with your encouragement, it will be just that."

Program benefits students, mentors

Hanging on the walls in the conference room were large pieces of paper with topics such as leadership, history, and languages. During the luncheon, attendees were given the chance to get up from their seats and sign their names beneath topics of their choice.

Some mentors-to-be, like L'Tanya Pugh, director of the equal employment opportunity program for Fort Riley, offered their mentorship wherever they are needed.

"As a mentor, your responsibility is really to encourage the Soldier and congratulate that Soldier, just to be there – not to push,

not to prod, not to ask a lot of questions," Pugh said. "I think for that Soldier out there, it's really important for their mission as a Soldier when they take the time to place value on their education and that there's somebody back there that cares."

Pugh has been working alongside the Army as a civilian for 25 years and has two sons who are both in the Army.

"It didn't hit me until they got deployment and mobilization orders that took them both out of school, but knowing that Kosovo, Iraq, wherever they were going, there is education services," Pugh said. "They can still be linked to somebody who can provide support even from a distance, and keep them encouraged and keep them focused."

"I can do that for someone that I don't have to be related to, someone I don't have to see all the time face-to-face – that's what got me into this," Pugh added.

Last year Pugh volunteered for a similar mentoring program in conjunction with the eArmyU program. She said though her job title probably caught the Soldier off guard, the two began corresponding via e-mail.

"It's quite ironic that we never met face to face," Pugh said. "We never talked on the telephone. Everything was via e-mail, but I was at the graduation ceremony ... and as a parent with two sons in college, it was almost like the daughter I never had, and she was getting her degree. So I think there's fulfillment for the mentor as well."

For more information about the program or to become a mentor or mentee, contact E. Ester Mayfield at ester.mayfield@us.army.mil or 239-6481.

Scholarship continued from page 11

Michelle Miller, also a JCHS senior, received the other \$40,000 four-year scholarship. Brandi Frey and Heather Delahoussaye, both military spouses attending college classes, received \$5,000 continuing education grants.

John G. Picerne set up the Our Families for Families First charitable foundation last year to help military families on posts where his company, Picerne Military Housing, manages housing operations - Fort Meade, Md., Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Polk, La., Fort Rucker, Ala., and Fort Riley.

Applications for the scholarships required the student to write an essay.

Michelle Miller's essay about how proud she was her father had enlisted in the Army was the main reason she got her \$40,000, said Maria Montalvo, executive director for the foundation.

Miller's father enlisted just three years ago, after being an auto mechanic in South Carolina for the previous 10 years. "We always knew she would go to college, we just didn't know how we would get the money to send her," said Cpl. Wayne Miller of the 977th Military Police Company.

"We won't have to worry about

that any more," added mother Connie with an ear-to-ear smile.

Miller plans to use her scholarship to attend Charleston Southern University in South Carolina to pursue a degree in nursing. "I've wanted to be a nurse since I was in the sixth grade," she said.

Lahan will use her scholarship to attend Emporia State University in Kansas.

She will study music with plans to become a high school music teacher. She is in the wind ensemble, orchestra, jazz marching band and Lady Blues Choir at JCHS. She plays flute and saxophone and takes private violin lessons.

Frey will use her \$5,000 grant to help complete her studies at Upper Iowa University. "This will take me through my junior year," she said. Frey, the spouse of a 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Soldier, is pursuing a degree in finance.

Delahoussaye will also get through her junior year at UIU, thanks to the \$5,000 grant. She plans to be the first person in her family to graduate from college.

The spouse of a 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Soldier wants to get a degree in business management.

Want to apply?

Our Family for Families First is accepting applications for 2007 scholarships and grants.

Four-year, \$40,000 scholarships are awarded to high school students in their junior or senior year and are based on academic performance, financial need, community involvement and extra-curricular activities.

One-time \$5,000 grants are awarded to military family members who are high school graduates enrolled in college courses at two-year, four-year or graduate schools. Grants are awarded based on academic performance, financial need, community involvement and planned use for the grant.

For application requirements and forms, write to Scholarship Applications, Our Family for Families First, c/o Picerne Military Housing, 6946 Post Road, Suite 300, North Kingstown, RI 02852 or go to www.ourfamilyforfamiliesfirst.org on the Web.

Deadline for scholarship applications is 3 p.m. April 30. Deadline for grant applications is 3 p.m. June 30.

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What's happening in your unit?
The Post wants to publicize interesting and informative articles about all organizations stationed at Fort Riley. Call the editor at 239-8854.
Let's talk.





Community news briefly

ESC sets game night

The Enlisted Spouses Club will hold Bunco at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 in Building 259. The activity is open to all ESC members. Please bring \$5 for prizes and a snack to share with everyone. If you don't know how to play Bunco, come out and learn. For more information, contact Amy Scarpulla at (785) 717-2753 or ascarpulla@gmail.com.

BOSS offers sing-a-rams

Express your love for that special someone in your life or just embarrass a friend with a BOSS Sing-A-Ram! Sing-A-Rams will be delivered Feb. 12-14 in the Fort Riley, Junction City and Manhattan areas. Packages available are: \$20 - balloon and candy \$25 - balloon, candy and a song. To purchase a BOSS Sing-A-Ram, contact 239-5614.

Daytona 500 at bowling center

Come watch the Daytona 500 at 2 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Custer Hill Bowling Center. Custer Hill Bowling Center and the Strike Zone Snack Bar & Grill will open at 2 p.m. and Extreme Bowling will begin at 4 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m. Enter to win a Dale Earnhardt Jr. racing jacket with every adult combo meal or large pizza purchased on Feb. 18. Winner must be 18 years of age and must be present to win. For additional information call 239-4366.

Dinner for Two offered

Give your sweetheart a Valentine gift to remember at Riley's Conference Center Sweetheart Dinner and Dance from 7 to 11 p.m. Feb. 17. The \$50 fee includes dinner for two, champagne and dancing. A DJ will provide romantic music throughout the evening. A cash bar will also be available. For tickets call Riley's Conference Center at 784-1000 or Information, Ticketing and Registration at 239-5614. The last day to purchase certificates is Feb. 9.

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Army program helps keep marriages strong

By Ashley Stetter
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Before Capt. Paul Olsen completed his first tour in Iraq as commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, his wife, Erin, contemplated what life was like before her husband's most recent deployment. The couple had spent two of the past three years living on different continents.

Erin said she spent time wondering where he was, what he was doing, and whether he was thinking of her and the baby they were expecting.

"Being married to a Soldier at war is difficult," Erin said. But today she recognizes her relationship has reached a level many Army marriages don't.

"I've seen many marriages fall apart due to the stress that deployments put on Soldiers and their families," she said. "Life in the Army is hard, and you have to be truly committed to the other person and the life you've built together in order for it to last."

Statistics provided by the Army chief of chaplains indicate that 8,367 Army couples divorced in 2005, making the Army's divorce rate higher than that of any other military service.

Given that fact, Army leaders are introducing new initiatives to help reduce divorce rates, improve mission readiness and enhance Soldier well-being.

"The Army has launched a tremendous number of family support programs since the war began," said Lt. Col. Peter J. Frederick, family ministries officer for the office of the Army Chief of Chaplains.

"Strong Bonds," a proactive and holistic marriage initiative, is among those. It provides guidance to single Soldiers, married couples, families and those facing deployment in order to stem potential problems.

"Strong Bonds is different from anything we've tried before, because it isn't a counseling program," Frederick said. "Counseling means something is wrong and we're going to fix it. This is

more of a preemptive education initiative."

"Military One Source" is another beneficial marriage-related program. It provides online consultants, articles, educational materials and other interactive tools to the military community every day, year-round.

"Military One Source is a revolutionary augmentation to the family services we currently have on military installations around the world," Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy John M. Molino told the American Forces Press Service. "It leverages technology and enables the Department of Defense to provide assistance to families and service members via the Internet or toll-free telephone numbers."

Programs like Military One Source and Strong Bonds seem to be having a significant impact on divorce statistics.

The number of Army marriages that ended in divorce when the war began in 2003 was 2.8 percent. While that number spiked to

3.9 percent in 2004, Frederick said the percentage has declined ever since and is currently less than 3.3 percent.

Capt. Patrick M. Gordon, who returned from Iraq in November 2006, said that while programs are helpful, Soldiers must take the first step toward maintaining a strong marriage.

"Preparation is the key," said Gordon, who has been married and in the military for seven years. "You must prepare the family for success."

Gordon and his wife, Michelle, who is pregnant with their first child, encourage all couples facing deployment to practice communication, mutual respect and understanding well before the deployment.

"I think you have to make sure that your spouse is prepared for deployment just like you are," Gordon said. "Several months before I deployed, I made sure that we had a plan to cover all the angles. I think a lot of Soldiers take off and leave their spouses unprepared to deal with issues,

and this can cause grief for the Soldiers, the chains of command and the spouses."

"Right now, we are looking great. Our divorce rates are below the national average and that is in spite of the fact that we are distressed at a much greater average," Frederick said. "Our Soldiers continue to do meaningful work, and we will continue to provide them with the world's best care and programs."

Successful military couples like Michelle and Patrick Gordon, and Erin and Paul Olsen encourage Soldiers to take advantage of the wealth of opportunities the Army offers.

"Too many people lack the skills to communicate and listen to each other, and they expect the initial rush of romantic emotions to carry them through a deployment," said Paul Olsen. "In the long run, it's all about communication, compromise and commitment. So long as both partners remember that and constantly work toward it, a marriage will stay strong."

Fort Riley dual-military couples juggle career, family

By Alison Kohler
Asst. Comm. Relations Officer

There's a saying that if the Army wanted you to have a family, they would have issued you one. Despite the saying, some Fort Riley Army families manage to make it work with two active-duty Soldiers in the family.

"We raised our right hand and said this is what we want to do. We understand what our jobs are," said 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Major Jim Champagne, who is one half of a dual-military couple.

Dual-military couples seem to have one thing in common - their commitment to the Army.

"It's not your ordinary marriage. We chose to be Soldiers before we chose to be married," said Capt. Adena Weiser, incoming company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command.

"We do this for a living and we chose to do this. It's a job we both love," said Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth "Lisa" Champagne, G-2 sergeant major, 1st Infantry Division.

Being married to a fellow Soldier brings greater understanding about serving in the Army said Capt. Randall "Tim" Weiser, outgoing company commander for HHC, DISCOM.

"Adena understands that I'm going through. Adena knows exactly what my job is like. If I had a 10-mile road march, she's



PHO/Kohler

Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, 4th IBCT, and Sgt. Maj. Lisa Champagne, 1st Inf. Div., talk with Frank Morris of National Public Radio about what it is like to be a dual-military couple.

like, 'Your feet hurt? Too bad. You're staying late? Oh, I'll bring you dinner,'" Tim said.

The Army also seems to have a greater understanding of dual-military couples, to the extent that there are policies to accommodate married couples in battle together.

"Chains of command try to

help married couples," Jim said. "There is now a policy in theater where married couples on the same Forward Operating Base, if they're in the same area, can cohabitate."

In the case of duty stations, the

couples said, the Army makes an effort to assign the Soldiers to the same installation.

"They try to recognize you're married and try to get you stationed together," Tim said.

"There's a lot of planning to get us placed at the same duty station. We've been very fortunate," said Maj. Nathan Swartz, S-4 for 4th IBCT.

However, Nathan's wife, Capt. Holly Swartz, a Medical Department Activity Soldier, said that it does make it harder since the couple is often separated. Nathan is about to embark on his fourth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Weisers have been deployed together once before in support of OIF, and they expect to be at the same FOB during their upcoming deployment.

"My chain of command has never given us, 'Hey, don't hang out with your wife,' Tim said. "I

don't think I've given them a reason to. You don't have a homefront; your homefront is on the battlefield."

"We served with other dual-military couples that maybe got to see each other once during the deployment, so we felt very fortunate," Adena said.

When the couple did find an opportunity to meet, they got down to business.

"It was difficult to have alone time," Tim said. "When we did, we would talk about our son or bills or who we got letters from, sync our calendars, that kind of thing."

Maintaining a professional relationship and image is important to the Weisers.

"We're both military officers. In a deployed environment, we have to remain professional," Adena said.

"We know how important per-

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Bark park progressing despite funding issues

By Anna Morelock
Editor

Planning for the post's new dog park is still underway.

The only hitch in the completion of the park, which will be opened on Main Post, is funding.

"We have done all of the necessary steps to complete the dog park, minus being allocated the funds to do the new start," said Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mathews.

Funding has not yet been released to Fort Riley and there are restrictions in place that require the post to stop all new-start projects until funds are released.

Despite the restrictions on offi-

cially starting the project, the garrison has done a lot of work to prep for the puppy playground.

The post historical society has approved repairs for the wall around the old buffalo

corral where the park will be located. A comprehensive bag-dispensing dog waste bin that will help prevent odors, bugs and vandalism has been ordered.

"We are also planning on putting four picnic tables within the grounds and two benches at the entrance, and have convened our memorialization board for the recommendation of naming the park," Mathews said.

Editor's note: Updates on the progress of the park will be printed in the Post to keep post residents updated on the project.

EDP continued from page 11

mental program they will be in training for just two days each month.

"This course was great for that mid-level employee that has established themselves in the system but is not at the supervisor level yet," said Timothy Heggins, Directorate of Public Works.

"The subject of most importance to my future in management

was the information that defined the various styles of managers one might find in a workplace," said Ruby Thomas, DPW. "I learned that a manager's ability to relate to employees by personality type in the workplace might be used to help improve the workplace culture of an organization. Relationships are important at work too."

Thirty post employees began

the second class Jan. 11. Dates for the third class are May 10 and 24, June 14 and 28 and July 12 and 26. Enrollment for the third class will begin in April.

For more information or to enroll in the program, employees can talk to their organization's Employee Satisfaction Improvement Team member or call Todd Douglass at 239-2205.

Dual-military continued from page 13

ception is, rules are," Tim said.

The Soldiers also know they must remain committed to their military duty, and admit they were aware what challenges they would confront.

"When we first started seeing each other, we knew what we were getting into," Jim said. "There is a possibility, sometime in the future, that we'll be separated because the Army couldn't get us together."

"You know what you're getting into," Tim agreed. "It's trying times. At some point, you know what you got yourself into, so you either stay in or get out."

Although Nathan is about to begin his fourth deployment, he remains committed to the mission. "There (are) a lot of days you get up and you question what you're doing. But you see that Soldier who needs someone to lead him into combat. I want to do that," he said.

The couples agreed that being more experienced with the Army is helpful in succeeding in a dual-military marriage.

"What makes it easier is us being a little older, being in the

Army longer," Tim said.

Jim said he thinks it's not as easy for younger dual-military couples, and it's a situation he will have to address as the senior enlisted adviser to the brigade commander.

"In my brigade of 3,500 Soldiers, there are 800 to 900 couples that are dual military. There is a significant increase of married Army couples," Jim said.

Dual-military couples could be becoming more common because of increased deployments.

Adena knew of a Soldier who was concerned about meeting a spouse. "He said, 'I'm never going to get married. I'm always deployed.' He found another servicemember," Adena said.

A good support system to a dual-military couple is a must.

"There is no way to do what we do and stay sane without a support system," Tim said.

When the Weisers were deployed together before, Tim's mother quit her job teaching in Georgia and traveled to Germany to raise the couple's high school-aged son.

"Our son graduated high school the year we were in Iraq, Adena said. He (ended) up joining the Army while we were deployed. He's been deployed once to Iraq for three months. We're not sure if he'll have to go again."

The Champagnes were deployed to Iraq together for four months, because their deployments overlapped.

"We were not together. Lisa was in the north part, and I was in Baghdad," Jim said.

As a couple with an 11-year-old son, the Champagnes prefer

alternate deployments, so their son can have one parent home. The couple has had six deployments between them since 2002.

"One of us is pretty much always gone," Lisa said.

Jim said he usually likes to wait to tell his son about a deployment until about 30 days prior, but his son hangs around military kids, so he can find out sooner. "He's pretty used to it," Jim said. "When I told him this time, he said, 'Okay. Dad. I understand. I love you. I support you. Just be safe.'"

Lisa said she has no preference to stay behind or deploy with her husband.

"I'll stay here and support him forward however I can," Lisa said. "Wherever the Army wants us to be, we'll be there."

The possibility of both Soldiers being killed in action is a difficult, but necessary subject to broach.

"Anytime you lose a Soldier in theater, it's tragic," Jim said. "The Army does a great job of preparing families with powers of attorney and wills. God forbid if something happens to both spouses, you have a long-term provider. If something happens, they can care for the child."

Tim said he is less concerned with both of them being killed in action, because the chances of dying together in a different situation is also possible.

"(We) might be in the same convoy or aircraft. If something happened, it could happen in the car, at a store or in Iraq," Tim said. "But Adena is my best friend, my wife, a professional Soldier and a colleague. I would have died with that person."

The Weisers are preparing for

their next deployment, and this time, they anticipate they will be together.

"Tim and I will probably be shipping out together - probably on the same FOB or camp. Since we deployed previously, we know what to plan for," Adena said.

They will each have a same-sex roommate and not live together, Tim said.

Tim said he is looking forward to the positives he can expect on this deployment.

"We might get to see our son in Germany (on rest and recuperation), save some money, maybe be able to read a book. What little time there is in Iraq, you get solitude," Tim said.

For the most part, Tim has enjoyed his experience with the Army and says it has been a positive in their family.

"The Army has molded and modeled me," Tim said. "We're in a difficult time and it tests your candor and commitment, but I appreciate the Army."

The positive outlook on deployments and serving in the Army are what helps the Weisers have a successful dual-military marriage.

"We cannot think of the negative aspects, we have to think optimistically," Adena said.

The Champagnes are expecting to be separated for about a year during Jim's deployment, but they are prepared for an extension if it is necessary.

"I just tell her, 'I'll see you when I'm looking at you,'" Jim said.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Page 15

Sports news in brief

Dodgeball tournament set

Come knock yourself out at the Fort Riley Dodgeball Extravaganza.

The fun will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 10 at King Field House.

The tournament is open to all active duty and local civilian teams. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

Sign-up at the Sports Office located in King Field House, Building 202. The registration fee per team is \$60.

Family fitness night scheduled

Come for a fun and entertaining evening of fitness for the entire family 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Fort Riley Teen Center, Building 5800.

Parents and their children will interact together in fitness activities, including aerobic exercise, fitness games and much more. For additional information, contact 239-9223.

Baseball teams forming in JC

An information and interest meeting will be held for the Junction City Junior Baseball Association at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Junction City High School cafeteria. Teams will be forming for kids 9 through 14 years of age. Tryout dates will be announced at the meeting Feb. 11. For more information contact Jim Poole at 238-6332, Larry Morgan at 761-9470 or James LeClear at 209-1991.

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 Prairie Hawk

MWR
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Army names top male, female athletes

Converted infielder pitches way to Army female athlete of year

By Tim Hips
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Sgt. Shannon Eichenseer, a two-time All-Armed Forces softball player, has been selected as the Army's 2006 Female Athlete of the Year by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

"I was kind of speechless when I heard, but this is really a great honor for the entire team, not just me," said Eichenseer, 22, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Battle Command Training Program's World Class Opposing Forces at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Eichenseer, who earned 2005 All-Armed Forces honors as a second baseman, was named to the 2006 All-Armed Forces Team as a pitcher, a position she had never played.

"We had a strong group of recruits coming in (to All-Army trial camp), but our pitcher from previous years couldn't come back, so I thought that could be a place that I could fill in," said Eichenseer, who filled the void in all-star fashion.

Eichenseer pitched every inning of all nine games. The All-Army women's squad went 8-1 against sister services to win the 2006 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship Aug. 21-24 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Eichenseer had an earned run average of 8.53 - compared to opposing pitchers' ERA of 20.82 - and limited opponents to a .373 batting average.

"I taught her how to throw a knuckleball and she throws it bet-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Shannon Eichenseer of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., is the Army's 2006 Female Athlete of the Year. Eichenseer pitched every inning of all nine games as the All-Army women's softball team went 8-1 against sister services to win the 2006 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship Aug. 21-24 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Prior to the tournament, she had never pitched in a game.

ter than I do," said 2005 Army Coach of the Year Rob Bailey of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Eichenseer's trusty glove made hitting up the middle a struggle for opposing batters.

"When it came back at me, yeah, but it was more of self-defense, though," Eichenseer said of making plays off the mound. "Slow-pitch softball is not really

See Eichenseer, Page 16

Marathon runner named Army male athlete of year

By Tim Hips
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Staff Sgt. Barry Brill, an endurance runner and bicyclist, has been selected as the Army's 2006 Male Athlete of the Year by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

Brill, 35, averaged 70 to 80 miles per week on training runs last year while serving as a military policeman in Ansbach, Germany. As a member of the U.S. Army-Europe team, he finished 120th among 16,676 competitors with a time of 59 minutes, 44 seconds in the 22nd running of the Army Ten-Miler at the Pentagon on Oct. 8.

Two weeks later, Brill was 68th among 20,934 finishers in the 31st running of the Marine Corps Marathon with a time of 2 hours, 52 minutes, 54 seconds - the fastest of his 10 marathons.

"The Marine Corps Marathon is so famous because Al Gore and Oprah Winfrey ran it, but the spectators realize that it originally was designed for the Armed Forces competition, the race within the race," Brill said. "So if you're wearing one of the Armed Forces' jerseys, the people go crazy. They've got banners on the

side of the road saying: 'Go Army!' and 'Go Navy!' It's just crazy the amount of people who are cheering you on and pushing you forward."

Brill then returned to Germany and finished third in the U.S. Air Force Europe Regional Cross Country Championships with a 37:03 clocking for 10 kilometers. In December, he finished fifth among 650 runners in the Ciechobegs Marathon, a 26.2-mile cross-country run, with a time of 2:58:55.

Brill posted top-40 finishes at the ING Brussels Marathon in Belgium (34th of 882 runners), the Regensburg Marathon (36th of 1,074) in Germany and the Tirol Speed Marathon (19th of 550) in Innsbruck, Austria. He also fared well in four half

marathons, including third-place performances in Ansbach, Wassertrudigen and the Tour de Hesselberg Half Marathon.

Brill is the lone American ever to finish as high as third place in the Ansbach City Half Marathon, the town's premier running event. He also volunteered to coach first-time road racers in a 20-week training program to prepare for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, scheduled for May 13. Soldiers struggling with physical fitness and weight-control issues often seek Brill for advice.

"I went a little overboard and did quite a bit in 2006," he said. "I tried to do a lot of cross-training on the bike because you can't run yourself in the ground every

See Brill, Page 16

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Brill continued from page 15

day. It just beats your body apart, so it's a good mix to get on the bike two or three times a week."

Although he's a member of running organization Lauftreff Ansbach Nord and biking club RSG Ansbach, Brill proudly displays his U.S. Army affiliation at every event. His goal is to favorably represent the local military community and the Army in races throughout Europe.

"I make it a point when I register to sign up for the Army as a whole," Brill explained. "My long-term goal is to get accepted into the World Class Athlete Program."

In the meantime, Brill has been selected to compete for the All-Army team in the 2007 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships, scheduled for Feb. 10 in Boulder, Colo.

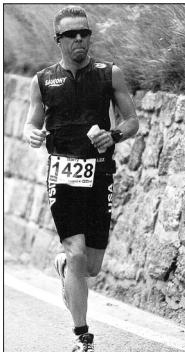
Assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment at U.S.

Army Garrison Ansbach, Brill serves as a physical security inspector and force protection specialist for the Provost Marshal Office. As the garrison's noncommissioned officer in charge of physical security, he oversees the garrison installation access control program and a 270-employee contract security guard force that ensures the safety of more than 8,500 residents.

Tim Hipps writes for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

Staff Sgt. Barry Brill, the Army's 2006 Male Athlete of the Year, runs to a 19th-place finish among 550 competitors in the Tirol Speed Marathon in Innsbruck, Austria.

Courtesy photo



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Eichenseer continued from page 15

dominated by the pitcher, a lot of it comes from the defense. It was an honor to pitch for them. The defense that I had behind me took the pressure off. All I had to do was put the ball over the plate and they handled the rest."

Bailey, however, wasn't so quick to discount Eichenseer's glove.

"She's one of the best fielding pitchers I've ever seen," he said.

Eichenseer also batted .485 with nine RBIs to help the All-Army team win the Armed Forces Championship.

She then pitched the All-Armed Forces team to the West-

ern Regional crown of the ASA Women's Open Hooters Championship Series in Lancaster, Calif., where Eichenseer again earned All-Tournament honors.

The All-Armed Forces team eventually finished as the national runner-up to Long Haul/Enough Said of Tallahassee, Fla., at the Hooters National Championship finals in Oklahoma City.

Along the way, Eichenseer maintained a 3.8 grade-point average while completing 13 correspondence classes online with American Military University, leaving her 30 hours shy of a bachelor's degree in criminal jus-

tice.

A graduate of Cattaraugus (N.Y.) Little Valley High School, Eichenseer volunteered to help teach English to children at an orphanage in Wonju, Korea, while she was stationed at Camp Long. She also assisted Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth in training for the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Tim Hipps writes for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command Public Affairs Office.

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IBBETSON PAUL
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WILDCAT PET RESORT
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LILACS ON THE PRAIRIE
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Lilacs on the Prairie

ARMED FORCES BANK
1 x 13"
Black Only
1x13 armed forces bank



Classifieds





Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 18

Home of the Big Red One

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Leisure time ideas

ITR helps plan get-aways

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office in Building 6918 at Fort Riley has lots of travel information, and the staff can help set up brief trips and longer vacations.

Here's a sampling of what ITR has to offer:

Rolling Hills Zoo - Located amidst the rolling hills of western Saline County, this section of Kansas prairie has been transformed into a beautifully landscaped zoological park. More than 85 species of animals are on exhibit. Discount tickets are now available through ITR.

Silver Dollar City - Childhood dreams come to life at Silver Dollar City with adventures beyond your wildest imagination. Buy your adult ticket and get a child's ticket free. Let ITR put together a weekend getaway to Branson, Mo. Numerous discounted show tickets and hotel accommodations.

Junction City:

What: "Go West Young Man" - 2007 Founder's Day celebration
When: 6:30 to 10 p.m. Feb. 10

Where: 700 N. Jefferson St., Junction City municipal auditorium

Tickets: \$25 per person or \$160 per table of eight. Tickets are available at the Municipal Building customer service center or the Geary County Historical Society Museum
Phone: (785) 238-1666

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What: Interpretive photography by Andy Zaller
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday
Where: 107 W. Fifth St., The Gallery
Phone: (785) 762-2581

Manhattan:

What: "Dark at the Top of the Stairs." Drama stage production by William Inge
When: Feb. 8-10 and 14-17
Where: Nichols Theatre, Kansas State University
Tickets: \$8 to \$15
Phone: (785) 532-6428
Web site: www.ksu.edu/scdt

...

What: "Man of La Mancha"
When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14
Where: McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University
Tickets: Public \$36-\$40, students and children \$18 to \$20, military, seniors and faculty \$34 to \$38
Phone: (785) 532-6428
Web site: www.ksu.edu/mccain

...

What: "Proof." Drama stage production by David Auburn.
When: Feb. 23-24 and March 1-4
Where: Manhattan Arts Center, 1520 Poyntz Ave.
Tickets: \$9 to \$16
Phone: (785) 537-4420
Web site: www.manhattanarts.org

Topeka:

What: Piecing It Together: Selected Quilts from the Kansas Museum of History
When: Now to Feb. 18, 2007
Where: 6425 SW 6th Ave., Kansas Museum of History
Phone: (785) 272-8681
Web site: www.kshs.org

Wichita:

What: Wichita Garden Show
When: Feb. 28 to March 4
Where: Century II Civic Center
Phone: (316) 946-0883
E-mail: wichitagardenshow@sbcglobal.net
Web site: www.wichitagardenshow.com

Arts council hosts first-ever Chocolate Challenge

Arts Council of Dickinson County

Abilene, Kan. - The Arts Council of Dickinson County invites chocolate lovers and chefs to enter a chocolate centerpiece in its first-ever Chocolate Challenge.

Centerpieces must include four different edible chocolate items tied together with the theme of love. Centerpieces can include pies, drinking chocolate, candies, cakes, cupcakes, desserts, cookies, fudge or brownies. Chocolate items must be made from scratch. One item of the entrants' choice will be used for tasting by judges and audience members.

Team participation is encouraged. Invite friends, members of your civic organization, club or co-workers to work together to create a centerpiece that will be the talk of the town.

Winner of the Chocolate Challenge will receive \$50. Chocolate centerpieces will be sold at a live auction during the "Let's Fall In Love" concert with the Celebration Quartet Feb. 16 at the Abilene Country Club, 1705 Country Club Lane, Abilene.

Individuals are also encouraged to donate a single chocolate item to be included in a silent auction. Businesses are encouraged to donate items and include marketing materials such as brochures or business cards that will be displayed the night of the auction and concert. Proceeds from the auction benefit youth art programming in Dickinson County.

To enter either the Chocolate Challenge or to donate a chocolate or other item, contact the Arts

Council of Dickinson County at 263-1884 by Feb. 12. Items will be delivered to the Abilene Country Club Feb. 16 between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Judging of the Chocolate Challenge will take place at 6 p.m. Feb. 16.

Make plans to take your Valentine to "Let's Fall In Love" featuring a chocolate fountain, love songs by the Celebration Quartet and live and silent auctions featuring chocolate. Tickets to the concert and auction are \$6 and available at Treasures By Tracine, Abilene Chamber of Commerce or the Arts Council of Dickinson County. Dinner is available by making reservations through the

Abilene Country Club. The event is open to the public and there are no membership requirements to attend this event.

For more information, call Katie Allen at (785) 263-1884.

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Black Only
2x5 Cartridge World

LAKESIDE MARINE
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Black Only
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SUNFLOWER BANK- JC
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For more info:

For more information about the Chocolate Challenge or "Let's Fall In Love," call Katie Allen at (785) 239-1884 or visit www.artscountldk.org/

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MWR
4 x 6.5"
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FULL COLOR4x6.5MWR01/28 DANCE

MILITARY OUTLET
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CINEMA 12/MANHATTAN, KS
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